

The Chronicle and Index

OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY.

No. 77, Vol. vii.]

BELFAST, MAY 1st, 1887.

[For Gratuitous Circulation.

OUR ANNIVERSARIES.

THE 56th Anniversary of the Unitarian Society, including the Sunday School Association, was celebrated on Easter Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 10th, 11th, and 12th, and everything passed off with great *eclat*. There were a larger number of representatives from kindred associations present than usual, and they added great interest to the proceedings. On Sunday there were two pleasant services in the schools of Rosemary Street and Hopeton Street, at both of which interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. John Heys, the President of the Manchester District Sunday School Association. The Annual Sermons were preached at Rosemary Street, Belfast, and at Moneyrea, by the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., of Liverpool. These sermons—one and all—were marked by the breadth of thought and purity of tone for which the preacher is deservedly celebrated, and his evening sermon especially, on the “Message of Unitarianism,” produced a profound impression upon all who heard it. There was a general feeling that, if possible, both sermons preached at Rosemary Street should be published. The collection at Moneyrea amounted to £3 1s. 6d., and at Rosemary Street to £34 16s. 1d.

THE ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST.

ON Monday morning, April 11th, a Breakfast was given in the Lombard Hall by the Committee of the Unitarian Society. Mr. J. M. Darbishire, of Liverpool, presided. There were also at breakfast—Revs. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., Liverpool; W. G. Tarrant, B.A., London; James C. Street, A. Shelley, Thomas Dunkerley, B.A.; W. Bannister, E. S. Anthony, M.A.; J. H. Bibby, W. Wetherall; Messrs. J. Heys, Manchester; J. T. Preston, London; Thomas M'Clelland, J.P.; John R. Neill, Henry Burden, M.D.; John M'Caw, M.D.; D. Bulmer, J. Graham, Glasgow; H. D. Darbishire, B.A.; John Ritchie, John F. Mulligan, H. Hyndman, LL.D.; George Murphy, W. J. Roche, J. Vinycombe, R. M'Calmont, F.C.S.; J. Worth, W. Palfreyman, J. Barker, W. G. Mulligan, &c.

Thanks having been returned,

Rev. J. C. STREET said it afforded him great pleasure to know that the Committee of the Association had asked their old and valued friend and co-worker, Mr. Darbishire, to preside over them that morning. The way in which they had received that sentence of his showed that they had not forgotten the long and valued services which their friend had rendered while he was in this town. They were delighted to see him back, and to find him in his fitting place, presiding on that occasion.

The CHAIRMAN, who was warmly welcomed on rising, said it was with the greatest pleasure that he saw himself surrounded by so many who were his co-workers in the past. He assured them that he would never forget the many and happy meetings which they had had in connection with the Association. When he was honoured by an invitation from the Committee, through his friend Mr. Street, to come and preside, he felt that he must say that, much as he should like it, it could not be done; but he found a sentence in Mr. Street's letter which made

him alter his intention, for that sentence reminded him that as he had been so long connected with the Association, and with its efforts in the Sunday School work, he was the fit and proper person to preside. He therefore accepted the invitation with pride and pleasure. He did not at present know anything of the working of the Society during the past twelve months, but he would have the pleasure of acquiring knowledge on that subject before leaving. He was quite sure that the work carried on during the past twelve months had been quite equal to the work of any preceding year. He knew there was a vast amount of life and energy in the Society, and when he recalled what the Sunday Schools were years ago he was astonished at the progress which they had made. About three months ago, when he visited this town, he found himself in the Sunday School of the Second Congregation, and he saw there a number of bright and happy faces, and they were receiving instructions, as usual, from Mr. Street. He was glad indeed on that occasion to be asked to say a few words to those young children. While he knew a large number personally, he saw there many whom he had never seen before, and he recognised as a fact that the school was progressing and increasing. That fact was to him very gratifying. He was glad to find that his friend Mr. Bulmer kindly came to preside when he (Mr. Darbishire) was obliged to leave Belfast, and that he was now the beloved superintendent of the school. Mr. Bulmer was not only connected with that admirable school of the Second Congregation, but he was connected with another similar school—Hopeton Street—the school superintended by Miss Jane Bruce. He hoped and trusted that Mr. Bulmer would for many years be spared to continue his good and useful work. He (Mr. Darbishire) always felt that it was not the business of the Chairman to take up the time of the meeting, and, as there were several valued friends to speak, he would content himself with thanking them most heartily for the way in which his name had been received, and with expressing the hope that that might not be the last time on which they and he would have the pleasure of meeting.

Rev. Mr. DUNKERLEY (Comber) moved—“That we extend to the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., a hearty welcome on the occasion of his visit to Ireland, and we thank him cordially for his fine services rendered yesterday in Rosemary Street and Moneyrea.” He could speak only of one of Mr. Armstrong’s services, but there were present some gentlemen who had attended the services which he (Mr. Dunkerley) was unable to attend, and between them they could undertake the duty that had been given them—namely, to propose a very warm welcome to the preacher of the previous day, and to thank him for his services. Mr. Armstrong had been long known amongst them, his fame was in all their churches on this side of the channel as well as the other, and he brought with him on the day before a specimen of his true inspiration; his lips had been touched with fire from the altar of spiritual earnestness. The lesson that Mr. Armstrong taught them was tolerance—tolerance of those who could not look on matters just in the way they themselves could; and the more earnest they were about their own views the more respectful they should be in regard to the views of others. He would not say that Mr. Armstrong gave them a needed lesson, but it was at least a precious lesson. In the afternoon he heard Mr. Armstrong at breezy Moneyrea, where he told the story of Jesus. He told it in the simplest language, and with the simplest illustrations. It was the old story told in new and beautiful language. Mr. Armstrong’s visit had done them good; it had come to them as an inspiration, and one which would remain and abide with them. He trusted that when Mr. Armstrong returned to Liverpool he would carry with him kindly thoughts of his visit amongst them.

Dr. HYNDMAN seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Rev. Mr. ARMSTRONG replied. He referred to a period many years ago when he was in the neighbourhood of Banbridge. The congregation of Liverpool of which he was pastor was indebted to the Rosemary Street congregation for Mr. Darbishire, who, with true Irish instincts, thought that he could not come over

to this country without having his pastor along with him. Mr. Armstrong thanked them for their kindness.

The Rev. G. W. BANNISTER moved—"That we rejoice to see present with us to-day so many representatives from kindred associations in England and Scotland, and in offering to them a welcome to our 56th Anniversary we express our high appreciation of the spiritual and progressive work in which their various Societies are so earnestly engaged."

T. McCLELLAND, Esq., J.P., seconded the motion, which was suitably responded to by Mr. J. T. Preston, Rev. G. W. Tarrant, B.A.; James Graham, Esq.; J. Heys, Esq.; and Rev. A. Shelley.

Dr. BURDEN, M.A., then moved—"That the warm thanks of this meeting be given to J. M. Darbishire, Esq., for his presence at our meetings this year, and for his conduct in the chair this morning."

The Rev. J. H. BIBBY seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. STREET then pronounced a benediction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT COMBER.

In the afternoon of the same day a Conference of Sunday School teachers, and others interested in Sunday School work, was held in Comber. There was a good attendance. Among those present were—Revs. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., Liverpool; W. G. Tarrant, B.A., London; Thomas Dunkerley, B.A., *pastor loci*; James C. Street, Belfast; G. W. Bannister, Moneyrea; J. H. Bibby, Ballee; J. A. Kelly, Rademon; E. S. Anthony, M.A., Raloo; A. Shelley, Templepatrick; Henry Magowan, Ravara; W. Reynolds, B.A., Mountpottinger; S. C. Nelson, M.A., Downpatrick; J. Wetherall, Belfast; and Messrs. J. M. Darbishire, Liverpool; J. T. Preston, London; J. Graham, Glasgow; J. Heys, Manchester; Thomas McClelland, J.P.; D. Bulmer, John R. Neill, A. M. Carlisle, J. Davidson, H. J. Fisher, John Rice, W. W. Drummond, J. Wright, Jos. Murphy, J. Worth, R. M'Calmont, F.C.S.; J. Palfreyman, J. Barker, Blakeley Orr, W. Baxter, and S. H. Street. A Religious Service was

held in the Comber Unitarian Church at 4.15 p.m. The Rev. J. C. Street conducted the devotional service, and the Rev. W. G. Tarrant, of London, preached an admirable sermon. After the service tea was provided for the visitors by the Comber congregation. At six o'clock the Conference was held in the church. The proceedings was opened by the singing of a hymn.

The Rev. J. C. STREET, having been called to the chair, referred to the hospitality with which the visitors had been received by the Comber congregation, and then called upon the Rev. R. A. Armstrong to speak on the subject, "The Relation of the Sunday School to the Congregation."

Mr. ARMSTRONG said he should endeavour to be as brief as he could. The subject on which he had to speak was of very great importance, more perhaps on his side of the channel than theirs. He understood that their Sunday Schools were for the most part composed of children of the congregation. There was an idea some time ago in his church at Hope Street, Liverpool, that no influence ought to be brought to bear on the children of the Sunday Schools to join the Church. But a great change had lately come over them, and they now recognised the Sunday Schools as the natural nursery of the churches. Before the spread of secular education among the people secular education was necessary in the Sunday Schools, and consequently it was thought that this education ought to be given without attempting to bring the children into the Church. He thought that especially in England they were too much apt when needing teachers to take the first young man or woman who was willing to teach, without considering their fitness, but he would rather have a small school with a few well-selected teachers than a large one with teachers so chosen. Theological teaching had a bad name. Theology was the intellectual framework of religion, and he thought that the intellectual side ought to be presented to the children. The intellectual side gave a definiteness to our religious views. We ought carefully, definitely, and systematically to give our children some idea of the

intellectual side of religion. The connection between the School and Church ought to be the very closest possible you can make, and this ought to be done by making your teachers those who have a love for the Church. We ought to have special service for the children sometimes, and they ought also to be encouraged to attend the ordinary services as much as possible.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Heys, the President of the Manchester Sunday School Association, to speak on the subject of "The Condition of Sunday School Work in England."

Mr. HEYS said that while he had presided, as the Chairman had said, over a much larger meeting at Bolton lately, he felt that the same fire was present at this meeting. Many of their older people had found it difficult to undertake the responsibility of teaching classes in the Sunday School because their scholars, they said, knew as much as they did. He did not at all defend this position; but, if their cultured friends would take their proper place in the Sunday Schools, this difficulty would be to a great extent overcome.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Tarrant, of London.

Mr. TARRANT said the Society which he represented was principally engaged in issuing such books as were necessary for the conducting of Sunday Schools, and he strongly recommended those present to make use of the books. He asked them to read the catalogue which the Society had issued, and which had been so well drawn out by Mr. Bowie.

Mr. GRAHAM (Glasgow) said he did not think he had much to tell them as to Sunday Schools. They had pretty much the same difficulties in Scotland as we had. He, however, would like to press one point, and that was the advantage of teaching children by parables. All children were fond of stories. The great advantage of this plan was that it elevates and inspires. Two persons might look at a flower—one of them would perhaps look at it scientifically and lose its beauties, the other would see the beauty of the flower, and would make the flower a starting point from which he would rise into spiritual realms higher than

the flower. Christ spoke to the people by parables, because it was the spiritual method. He thought that in teaching children we ought to illustrate, and that by this method we could do more than by explaining. We ought to strive to teach adults and children too that this world is not common, but full of mystery.

Mr. DARBISHIRE said that when he first came to Belfast he did not for some time take part in Sunday School work, but after some time he became connected with the Domestic Mission. He did not teach his children what he called theology; he taught them religion. He afterwards, when he joined Rosemary Street, felt it his duty when asked by Mr. Street to take up the superintendence of the school there as successor to Mr. Fuhr, who, he was glad to hear, was returning to Belfast. It was with very great regret that he had been obliged to give up his position there. He had been a learner as well as a superintendent in that school, for Mr. Street had taught him lessons which he should never forget.

Mr. STREET said that the best lesson Mr. Darbishire ever taught was the lesson of his own personal life.

Mr. SHELLEY referred to the custom which prevails in Wales of all people, old and young, attending the Sunday School. He thought it would be a grand thing if this custom could be extended to England and Ireland.

Mr. PRESTON, speaking on "Our Religious Views and our Duty to our Children," said the topic which he had to speak on divided itself into two heads—one of which was very difficult, the other very easy. It was very difficult to say what our religious views were. He knew what his own were, but could not speak for anyone else. He might say that, while they had no definite idea what their religious opinions were, they had some broad principles on which they were all agreed. They believed in a God who made the universe; in Jesus, who, as Mr. Armstrong said yesterday, lived the divinest of lives. They believed that sin is a disobedience to the will of God, and receives its own punishment in due time, and they did not believe in the necessity for any atonement. With regard to duty to children,

he thought it was a very great pity that parents should neglect to give their children religious training. If you do not teach them your ideas somebody else will teach them theirs, and which you do not believe in.

The CHAIRMAN, at the conclusion, said that as the time for the departure of their train was approaching he would not ask anyone to move a vote of thanks to the Comber congregation, but would express himself, on behalf of the visitors, their appreciation of the hospitable way in which they had been received.

The meeting was then closed with a benediction.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ON Tuesday evening, April 12th, the Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society was held in the church of the Second Congregation, Rosemary Street. The attendance was considerable. Besides a large number of ladies, there were present—Mr. J. Ritchie, president (in the chair); Revs. R. A. Armstrong, Liverpool; W. G. Tarrant, London; J. C. Street, J. H. Bibby, Geo. Bannister, E. S. Anthony, M.A.; A. Shelley, W. Wetherall, J. Cooper, and W. Reynolds; Messrs. Thos. McClelland, J.P.; James M. Darbishire, Liverpool; J. T. Preston, London; Jas. Graham, President of Scottish Unitarian Association; D. Bulmer, J. Greenfield, F. E. Dale, H. Darbishire, H. D. Darbishire, B.A.; J. F. Mulligan, John Greenfield, G. Fisher, J. Worth, R. McCalmont, J. Worthington, W. Palfreyman, William C. Dobbin, J. E. Barker, J. Erskine, H. J. Fisher, J. H. Gilliland, W. Wright, J. Cochrane, J. Sloan, J. Wetherall.

After devotions, conducted by Rev. J. C. STREET,

The CHAIRMAN, Mr. J. Ritchie, said that it was by virtue of his position of President of the Society that he occupied the chair that evening. He duly appreciated that honour. He believed he would best consult the convenience of the meeting by saying the fewest possible words. A number of reverend and learned gentlemen would deliver addresses, and no doubt they would contribute to the information of the meeting and to its gratification by what they would say. Al-

though he was in a position analogous to that of the Speaker of the House of Commons in relation to privileges and powers, which at present were those of a dictator, still he did not intend to exercise the cloture—for he intended to give the fullest rights of discussion, so far as time was concerned, the only conditions which he would impose being that the speakers would confine their remarks to the subject under immediate discussion. He would call on the Hon. Secretary to read the Report.

Mr. ROBERT McCALMONT, hon. secretary, read the Annual Report as follows:—

“The Unitarian Society has now completed the 56th year of its existence. Through good and ill report it has carried on its work, and has proved its utility as an agency for extending a knowledge of the principles of liberal Christianity, and for upholding the cause of mental and spiritual freedom.

“The year just ended has been one of great usefulness and steady work.

“The meetings of Committee have not been quite as numerous as usual; but the work done by the Society has, in no sense, been diminished.

“A little disorganization was caused by the resignation of the Rev. J. H. Bibby as one of the Secretaries, who found that his distant residence from Belfast prevented him from discharging the duties of the office efficiently. The Rev. G. W. Bannister, of Moneyrea, accepted the office in the interim.

“Another interference with your Society's work arose from the resignation by Miss Fisher of her office as agent, owing to her future residence in London. Your Committee thanked Miss Fisher for her services, and expressed regret at losing her; and they lost no time in making a temporary arrangement with Miss Stronge to supply her place.

“But notwithstanding these drawbacks, the sales at the Depository amounted to the sum of £259 12s 8d., being somewhat in excess of last year.

“The sale of literature bearing upon religious questions continues to increase, and many persons, not Unitarians, avail themselves of the advantages presented by your Depository.

"*The Chronicle and Index* has continued its wide and useful circulation: about 13,000 copies have been distributed, and, as the accounts will shew, this has been done at a very slight cost to the Society. Through the columns of this monthly organ not only interesting matters of information are made known, but the principles of our free religious societies are continually advocated.

"The balance in your Treasurer's hands at the close of the year was £49 17s 11½d, but there were a number of accounts not paid. Your Committee are in need of a wider and a more substantial support to enable them to carry on the work successfully.

"In addition to the valuable Sunday School Conference held at Comber in connection with the last Anniversary, at which the Rev. T. Dunkerley presided, when the Rev. J. A. Kelly read a Paper on "Some considerations on the education of young people," two other delightful gatherings of the same nature were held, *one* at Ballee, where, under the presidency of the Rev. J. C. Street, a fine meeting was held, on July 22nd, and a Paper read by the Rev. D. Thompson on "Our Sunday Schools as they are, and as they might be," and the *other* at Moneyrea, the Rev. J. C. Street in the chair, when the Rev. E. S. Anthony, M.A., read a Paper on "Confirmation Services." All these gatherings were of a most delightful nature, and proved to be of an eminently useful character.

"The work done by the Sunday School Association (London) in publishing excellent text-books and manuals is highly appreciated by our schools in Ireland.

"Your Society was represented at the Scottish Association, at the B. and F. U. Association, and S. S. Association, and at the Manchester District S. S. Association, and your representatives were cordially welcomed. It is a great pleasure to your Society to receive so many representatives from kindred associations at your present Anniversaries.

"Your Committee are alive to the importance of the fact that new circumstances and conditions in society necessitate new methods of working old organizations. In former times

it was impossible to obtain Unitarian and other progressive religious literature from ordinary booksellers, and the establishment of special agencies for the purpose was a necessity; now, so completely are these circumstances changed, that any bookseller will gladly supply Unitarian literature, and every bookseller is an agent for circulating the progressive literature of the age. It was a serious matter of offence some years ago that your Society sold Parker's works, and similar works of a broad and catholic character. As a consequence, a new Society and a new Depository were established. Your Committee are glad to know that all such books are now supplied at the new Depository;* so that the progress of the age has lifted the new Society into the position which your own Society so strenuously maintained. This is a matter of rejoicing, and, taken in connection

* Since our Report appeared in the newspapers, the following letter bearing upon the sale of Parker's Works has been published. We issue it along with our Report, so that our readers may see that we appear to have been misinformed; and we express our regret both at our misleading statement, and at the fact that Theodore Parker is still excluded from the shelves of a Unitarian Depository.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN WHIG.

SIR,—In the report presented to the annual meeting of this Society, as given in your issue of to-day, occurs the following reference to the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association:—"It was a serious matter of offence some years ago that your Society sold Parker's works and similar works of a broad and catholic character. As a consequence a new Society and a new depository were established. Your Committee are glad to know that all such books are now supplied at the new depository, so that the progress of the age has lifted the new Society into the position which your Society so strenuously maintained. This is a matter of rejoicing," &c. I do not wish to enter on matters of controversy perhaps unsuited for your columns, but simply to contradict an extraordinary error. At no time have such works as those of Mr. Theodore Parker, . . . been sold at the depository of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

Perhaps the explanation of the mistake is this. The Theological Library of the Association of Irish Non-subscribing Presbyterians has for a few years past been accommodated on the premises of the Rosemary Street Depository. This library, intended for the use of theological students, contains, as is natural, a wide range of literature bearing on theological questions, from the Apocryphal Gospels to Spinoza and Swedenborg, and embraces representative works of many thinkers, Roman Catholic as well as Protestant. It is a perfectly distinct institution, maintained and controlled by its own supporters, and in no sense amalgamated with the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association, which devotes itself exclusively to the sale and circulation of Christian Unitarian literature.—Yours, &c.,

JOHN HUNTER, Secretary Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

with the fact that booksellers are now prepared to supply our literary wants, it raises a question whether your Society may not wisely and profitably modify its methods of action, and find better means of extending a knowledge of its principles.

“In laying down their trust, your Committee

confidently affirm their belief that old dogmas are losing their power, and that a large charity, a sweeter faith, and a higher religious life are winning their way into the acceptance of mankind.”

The HON. TREASURER (Rev. J. C. Street) read the financial report as follows:—

Dr. <i>The Treasurer in Account with the Unitarian Society to December 31st, 1886.</i>				Cr.
To Balance from 1885,	£32	7	11	
„ Subscriptions—				
Belfast,	£37	5	0	
Comber,	0	12	6	
Ballee,	0	7	6	
Carrickfergus,	0	10	0	
Rademon,	0	8	0	
Moneyrea,	2	7	6	
Glenarm,	0	2	6	
Dromore,	0	10	0	
Holywood,	0	5	0	
Baloo,	0	2	6	
Downpatrick,	0	5	0	
		42	15	6
„ Congregational Collections—				
Belfast,	31	16	10	
Moneyrea,	3	2	6	
		34	19	4
„ <i>Chronicle and Index</i> —				
Donations,	8	10	0	
Advertisements,	15	0	9	
		23	10	9
„ Annual Breakfast,		3	16	0
„ Receipts at Depository,		259	12	8
		397	2	2
				397 2 2
By Incidentals—				
Salary to Agent,	£22	10	0	
Sundries,	22	13	9½	
Anniversary,	8	0	0	
Rent and Taxes,	34	7	3	
Treasurer's & Secretary's Expenses,	2	10	0	
		90	1	0½
„ <i>Chronicle and Index</i> ,		23	0	0
„ Annual Breakfast,		4	4	0
„ Books and Stationery,		230	11	8
„ Balance in hand,		49	5	5½

Mr. THOMAS M'CLELLAND, J.P., moved the adoption of the Report and the Statement of Accounts. He thought that the Society had reason to congratulate itself on the position which it occupied, as shown by the Report.

Rev. THOS. DUNKERLEY seconded the motion in a sentence, being anxious to give way to speakers whom, as they came from a distance, the meeting should be glad to hear.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Rev. J. C. STREET announced that the following office-bearers had been duly nominated for the ensuing year:—

<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rev. J. A. Kelly.
Rev. J. C. Street.	Mr. J. F. Mulligan.
	Dr. John McCaw.
<i>Secretaries:</i>	Mr. T. McClelland, J.P.
Rev. G. W. Bannister.	Mr. J. R. Neill.
Rev. T. Dunkerley, B.A.	Dr. John Polly.
	Mr. R. McCalmont, F.C.S.
	Mr. G. Fisher.
<i>Committee:</i>	Mr. John Bennett.
Rev. E. S. Anthony, M.A.	Rev. J. H. Bibby.
Mr. W. A. Adamson.	Mr. D. M'Master.
Mr. D. Bulmer.	Rev. A. Shelley.

Rev. Mr. BANNISTER moved—"That we rejoice in the excellent work which is being accomplished by the various Unitarian organisations throughout the United Kingdom, and we wish them God-speed in the larger work that lies before them."

Mr. HERBERT DARBISHIRE seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mr. PRESTON (London) responded to the motion. He also spoke to the topic of kindred institutions, and the work that they were doing. He observed that there was a great loss of energy and power in the carrying on of two Societies in Belfast. He thought it was the duties of ministers and laymen to do away with the differences that were between the two Societies, so that they might form one strong body.

Mr. GRAHAM and Rev. Mr. SHELLEY also spoke in response to the resolution.

Rev. J. C. STREET said he had not intended

to speak, but, having regard to some of the observations already made, he thought it desirable to say a few words. He wished to say that what they as a Society had sought in the past was unity, and they desired in the present to effect unity. If their friends who were separated from them would come back to the old Society they would not only be cordially welcomed, but would gladly be given at least half of the seats on the committee and half the offices in connection with the organisation, or, if they would give up the dogmatic basis of their own Society, they—the old Society—would give up their Society, and join those who had severed themselves from that Society. If neither of these proposals should be acceptable the old Society would give up its basis if the new one did likewise, and would join them on the simple basis of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. He was speaking with the full approval of the Association when he again reached out the hand of fellowship to those who were separated from them.

Rev. Mr. REYNOLDS moved—"That we hail with satisfaction the proofs given by our various Sunday School Associations that the work among the young is being carried on with growing vigour and with increasing success."

Mr. J. F. MULLIGAN seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

Rev. Mr. TARRANT responded to the resolution in a most interesting speech.

Mr. J. M. DARBISHIRE moved that the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., be urgently requested to allow the two sermons which he preached in Belfast to be printed by the Society for circulation among those who are seeking to know the spiritual life and intellectual attitude of Unitarianism.

Mr. GEORGE FISHER seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

Rev. Mr. ARMSTRONG, in response, delivered a most powerful speech, in which he referred to Mr. Street's noble offer, and said he trusted it might be accepted in the same spirit. He said he did not see how the Society could give up one iota of its non-subscription, and felt sure that it would not; but he hoped the broad comprehensiveness of our religious position would be

accepted by those who now were divided from one another.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Mr. W. C. Dobbin, seconded by Mr. J. W. Kinnear, and cordially passed.

The proceedings concluded with prayer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1886 RECEIVED BY TREASURER.

Miss Aston,	Belfast,	..	£0	2	6
D. Bulmer,	"	..	0	5	0
Mrs. D. Bulmer,	"	..	0	5	0
S. Barry,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Barry,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss Barker,	"	..	0	5	0
H. Burden, M.D.	"	..	0	10	0
Miss J. E. Bruce,	"	..	0	10	0
Mrs. Brydon,	"	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Coleman,	"	..	0	5	0
Miss Coleman,	"	..	0	10	0
Sir E. P. Cowan, Lord Lieut. of Antrim,	..	2	10	0	
James Campbell,	Belfast,	..	0	10	0
James Carr,	"	..	0	10	0
Miss Coe,	"	..	0	2	6
A. M. Carlisle,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Carlisle,	"	..	0	2	6
Daniel Currell,	"	..	0	10	0
N. A. Campbell,	"	..	0	2	6
W. C. Dobbin,	"	..	0	10	0
Miss Dobbin,	"	..	0	10	0
J. M. Darbishire,	"	..	1	0	0
Mrs. Darbishire,	"	..	0	5	0
Miss Darbishire,	"	..	0	5	0
H. Darbishire,	"	..	0	10	0
Mrs. H. Darbishire,	"	..	0	10	0
F. E. Dale,	"	..	0	10	0
W. W. Drummond,	"	..	0	5	0
R. G. Dunville, D.L.,	"	..	0	10	0
John Davidson,	"	..	0	5	0
J. R. Erskine,	"	..	0	5	0
Henry Ferguson,	"	..	0	10	0
George Fisher,	"	..	0	5	0
Miss K. M. Fisher,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss M. L. Fisher,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss L. E. Fisher,	"	..	0	2	6
H. J. Fisher,	"	..	0	2	6
R. W. Gordon, J.P.,	"	..	0	5	0
John Greenfield,	"	..	0	5	0
Sir E. J. Harland, Bart.,	"	..	1	1	0
Hugh Hyndman, LL.D.,	"	..	0	10	0
Mrs. Hyndman,	"	..	0	10	0
Thomas Henderson,	"	..	0	2	6
John Johnston,	"	..	0	2	6
Alexander King,	"	..	0	5	0
R. M. Kennedy,	"	..	0	10	0
J. W. Kinnear,	"	..	0	5	0
James Kinnear,	"	..	0	2	6

Mrs. Lipsey,	Belfast,	..	£0	5	0
J. F. Lowry,	"	..	0	2	6
D. W. Moore,	"	..	0	2	6
J. F. Mulligan,	"	..	0	5	0
R. Murray,	"	..	0	5	0
F. Manderson,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss Martin,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss May,	"	..	0	2	6
James Moore,	"	..	0	10	0
Samuel Moore,	"	..	0	2	6
A. J. Milligan,	"	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Millin,	"	..	0	2	6
Adam Millin,	"	..	0	2	6
Sam. Millin,	"	..	0	5	0
John Montgomery,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Malcolmson,	"	..	0	10	0
William Moore,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss Miniss,	"	..	0	2	6
J. L. Marshall,	"	..	0	5	0
John M'Giffen,	"	..	0	5	0
J. M'William,	"	..	0	2	6
Thomas M'Clelland, J.P.,	"	..	0	10	0
Robert M'Calmont, F.C.S.,	"	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Robert M'Calmont,	"	..	0	2	6
William M'Calmont,	"	..	0	2	6
H. J. M'Cance, J.P.,	"	..	0	10	0
George M'Auliffe, J.P.,	"	..	1	0	0
Mrs. M'Mechan,	"	..	0	2	6
John M'Connell, J.P.,	"	..	0	2	6
Dr. M'Caw,	"	..	0	2	6
T. E. Osborne,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Nelson,	"	..	0	10	0
John R. Neill,	"	..	0	10	0
Dr. Nelson,	"	..	0	10	0
W. Palfreyman,	"	..	0	5	0
Miss Prenter,	"	..	0	2	6
E. F. Patterson,	"	..	0	2	6
W. J. Pirrie,	"	..	0	10	6
Dr. Polly,	"	..	0	2	6
William Rankin,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Rice,	"	..	0	2	6
Samuel Riddell,	"	..	0	10	0
John Ritchie,	"	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Ritchie,	"	..	0	2	6
John Ritchie, jun.,	"	..	0	2	6
David Ritchie,	"	..	0	2	6
W. B. Ritchie, J.P.,	"	..	2	0	0
W. Robertson, J.P.,	"	..	1	5	0
Mr. Russell,	"	..	2	0	0
John Steele,	"	..	0	2	6
Miss Rowan,	"	..	0	2	6
Rev. J. C. Street,	"	..	1	0	0
W. R. Stitt,	"	..	0	2	6
John Vinycomb,	"	..	0	5	0
Miss Weir,	"	..	0	2	6
G. W. Wolff,	"	..	1	1	0
James Worthington,	"	..	0	2	6
James Ward,	"	..	0	2	6
D. Young,	"	..	0	2	6

COUNTRY.

G. G. Henderson,	Hollywood,	..	£0	2	6
Mrs. Henderson,	"	..	0	2	6
W. A. Adamson,	Carrickfergus,	..	0	2	6
J. E. Adamson,	"	..	0	2	6
W. Larmour,	"	..	0	5	0
James Logan,	"	..	0	2	6
R. M'Gill,	"	..	0	2	6
W. Davidson, J.P.,	Rademon,	..	0	2	6
Miss Johnston,	"	..	0	3	0
Rev. J. A. Kelly,	"	..	0	2	6
Rev. G. W. Bannister,	Moneyrea	..	0	5	0
William Bennett,	"	..	0	10	0
James Bennett,	"	..	0	5	0
John Bennett,	"	..	0	5	0
W. Gibson,	"	..	0	5	0
D. M'Master,	"	..	0	10	0
A. K. Stewart,	"	..	0	5	0
Rev. T. Dunkerley, B.A.,	Comber,	..	0	10	0
J. Simonton,	"	..	0	2	6
J. Chambers,	Ballee,	..	0	2	6
J. Bailie,	"	..	0	2	6
Rev. J. H. Bibby,	"	..	0	2	6
J. Lusk, Glenarm,	"	..	0	2	6
J. Miniss, J.P.,	Dromore,	..	0	10	0
J. Bell, Downpatrick,	"	..	0	5	0
Rev. E. S. Anthony, Raloo,	"	..	0	2	6

THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.

THE first meeting of the General Council of the Society, after the Annual Meeting, was held on Wednesday, April 20th, in the School Room of Rosemary Street Church. Thos. M'Clelland, Esq., J.P., was called to the chair. The following Officers and Sunday School Committee were duly elected for the present year:—

President:

JOHN ROSS NEILL, Windsor.

Vice-Presidents:

W. BENNETT, Solitude, Moneyrea.
 HENRY BURDEN, M.D., Belfast.
 SIR E. P. COWAN, Lord Lieut. of Antrim.
 HERBERT DARBISHIRE, Belfast.
 HUGH HYNDMAN, LL.D., Belfast.
 W. G. MULLIGAN, Belfast.
 JOHN R. MINISS, J.P., Dromore.
 REV. S. C. NELSON, M.A., Downpatrick.
 JOSEPH NELSON, M.D., Belfast.
 JOHN RITCHIE, Belfast.
 WM. ROBERTSON, J.P., Belfast.
 W. J. PIRRIE, Belfast.

Sunday School Committee:

Mrs. M'Mechan.	Rev. G. W. BANNISTER.
Miss J. E. BRUCE.	Rev. J. H. BIBBY.
Miss COLEMAN.	Rev. E. S. ANTHONY, M.A.
Miss G. H. COE.	Rev. T. DUNKERLEY, B.A.
Miss DOBBIN.	Rev. J. A. KELLY.
Miss E. MARTIN.	Rev. A. SHELLEY.
Miss MAY.	Rev. J. C. STREET.
D. BULMER.	R. M'CALMONT, F.C.S.

Various matters connected with the welfare of the Society were carefully considered, and suggestions prepared to lay before the Executive Committee of the Society; and the Council rose after sitting for an hour and a half.

ROSEMARY STREET MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

ON Monday evening, April 18th, the Fifteenth Session of this flourishing Association was brought to a close with a very interesting and thoroughly successful conversazione, held in the Lecture Hall of the Society. There was a large attendance of the members, for whose enjoyment a well-arranged and select programme had been prepared. A most acceptable cup of tea, presented with choice accompaniments, under the graceful supervision of Miss Dobbin, Miss Stitt, and Miss Barker, supplied a desirable introduction to the evening's proceedings. Subsequently the large company enjoyed a promenade through the library and the other rooms of the building, in each of which some special objects of science or art interest were exhibited for inspection. It would be impossible to do more than indicate in general terms the merits of these various articles. That they were appreciated by the guests was quite obvious. The objects kindly lent for the occasion were—Japanese gourds, Mr. Vinycombe; some very beautifully-designed clocks, Messrs. Gibson & Co.; stereoscopic views, Jennings & Osborne; rare photographs, Vienna Photographic Company; pictures, Messrs. Rodman & Co.; imitation-bronze casts, Messrs. M'Caw, Stevenson, & Orr; microscopes, Mr. Welsh; water-colour sketches, Miss S. T. Greer; water-colour drawings, Mr. Seggons. Mr. N. A. Campbell also lent some very valuable articles from his well-known establishment. After promenading for a considerable time the guests took seats, and the President of the Association, Rev. J. C. Street, proceeded to the chair, and he was applauded on rising to say a few words. He was glad to see so many friends gathered together that night; it was pleasant to see so great an interest manifested in the Association, which now completed the fifteenth year of its history. To think that at

the close of the year's work so many friends should gather together suggested the idea to the President and the Committee, by whom he was surrounded, that the session just now ended must have been of a peculiarly interesting and profitable character. The fifteenth year of the Association had been at least as interesting, as profitable, and as suggestive as any of the previous years in its history. The work had been well done; the papers, lectures, and discussions had been of a very high order, and the interest manifested had been intelligent and appreciative. Moreover, the friends drawn together, being of diverse theological, political, and social ideas, had experienced during the course of the year evidently great pleasure and profit. Their platform had been the broadest. Nobody had been kept away from them because they were afraid of discussion; no one had left them because of not being enabled to submit his views to them. Their platform had been absolutely free. If any man had anything to say to them he could say it; if any thinker had any thought which he wished to convey to the world he could speak it from their platform. No subject was tabooed; no man was kept away. The only condition they imposed was that, when the thinker wished to express his thoughts, and the teacher wished to teach, he should allow himself to be subjected to a pleasant cross-examination on the part of the members of the Association. They were not merely receptive; they were discriminating, and as an examining body preferred to form their own judgment and take their own course. They could not expect to find bigots in such an Association, because there was no room for such; bigotry disappeared so soon as persons under such an influence came into contact with the Association. Rev. C. J. Street (Croydon), who was called on by the President, as the first Secretary of the Society, delivered a brief and congratulatory address. Rev. Mr. Reynolds (Mountpottinger) also spoke, congratulating the Association on its success. Afterwards a very enjoyable programme of vocal and instrumental items was gone through. Mr. Gilliland and Miss Carroll entertained the audience with a short dramatic sketch. Miss Street and Miss Bulmer were warmly applauded for an admirable pianoforte duet. Mr. H. J. Fisher in a solo, and Dr. M'Caw in a similar item, contributed to the success of the entertainment.

THE Rev. J. C. Street begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions in aid of the gratuitous publication of the *Chronicle and Index* :—

J. Irvine Smith, Dublin,	...	£0	2	0
Anna Swanwick, London,	...	0	5	0
Mrs. Russell, Belfast,	...	1	0	0
J. G., Belfast,	...	0	2	0

Further subscriptions are invited, and will be gladly acknowledged.

THE Treasurer of the Unitarian Society begs to acknowledge receipt of the following subscriptions :—

For 1886.

Rev. E. S. Anthony, Baloo,	...	£0	2	6
W. Larmour, Carrickfergus,	...	0	5	0
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For 1887.

Mrs. Russell, Belfast,	...	2	0	0
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